

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

ERNESTO DOMINGUEZ,

Plaintiff,

v.

THE CITY OF SEATTLE, et al,

Defendants.

CASE NO. C05-1400JLR

ORDER

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the court on a motion for summary judgment by the City of Seattle, Seattle Police Officers Phillip Ocker and Kevin Runolfson, and five unidentified Seattle Police Officers (Dkt. # 31) (the “Seattle Defendants”). Also before the court is a motion for summary judgment by Kroger Group Cooperative, the Kroger Company, and Quality Food Centers, Inc. (Dkt. # 34) (the “QFC Defendants”). No party has requested oral argument and the court finds the matter suitable for decision on the papers submitted. For the reasons stated in this order, the court GRANTS Defendants’ motions for summary judgment (Dkt. ## 31, 34).

II. BACKGROUND

Early in the morning on August 13, 2004, at approximately 1:00 am, Plaintiff Ernesto Dominguez sat outside the QFC grocery store on Broadway Avenue in Seattle’s

1 Capitol Hill neighborhood with two homeless friends, eating sandwiches. Defendant
2 Phillip Ocker, an off-duty Seattle Police Officer, was working security for QFC. While
3 on duty for QFC, Officer Ocker wore his full Seattle Police Department uniform. Officer
4 Ocker received a complaint from a customer around 1:00 a.m. The customer told Officer
5 Ocker that three men were sitting outside QFC and harassing customers as they entered.
6 Tran Decl., Ex. B (Ocker Dep. at 13). Officer Ocker approached the three men, telling
7 them to leave QFC property. Id. Although the other two men left QFC, Mr. Dominguez
8 refused. Id. (Ocker Dep. at 16). Mr. Dominguez admits that he was asked to leave QFC
9 property several times but refused. Id., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 56, 85, 166). Officer
10 Ocker called for backup and Officer Kevin Runolfson arrived. Id. (Ocker Dep. at 27).
11 Unlike Officer Ocker, who was off-duty and working security, Officer Runolfson was a
12 regular on-duty Seattle Police Officer.

13
14 Officer Ocker issued Mr. Dominguez a trespass admonishment which prevented
15 Mr. Dominguez from entering the QFC for a period of one year. Id. (Ocker Dep. at 27);
16 Ocker Decl., Ex. B (Trespass Admonishment). Mr. Dominguez refused to leave.¹ Id.
17 The officers took Mr. Dominguez's arms and escorted him from QFC property and onto
18 the adjacent sidewalk. Tran Decl., Ex. B (Ocker Dep. at 28), Ex. C (Runolfson Dep. at
19 20). Mr. Dominguez did not want to leave: he wanted to purchase a cookie. Mr.
20 Dominguez then asked what would happen if he went back on QFC property. Id., Ex. A
21

22 ¹ The Seattle and QFC Defendants both present as undisputed fact that Mr. Dominguez
23 received a written trespass admonishment from Officer Ocker *prior* to being escorted from the
24 property. Seattle Mot. at 4; QFC Mot. at 4. Although Mr. Dominguez does not dispute this
25 order of events, the deposition testimony is less than clear on the timing of the written trespass
26 admonishment. See Tran Decl., Ex. B (Ocker Dep. at 28-29). In any event, it is undisputed that
27 Mr. Dominguez remained on QFC property after being ordered to leave the premises. See Id.,
28 Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 63). Mr. Dominguez only left QFC property when he was physically
removed by Officers Ocker and Runolfson. Howell Decl., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 60-62),
Tran Decl., Ex. B (Ocker Dep. at 28-29), Ex. C (Runolfson Dep. at 20). After Mr. Dominguez's
final refusal to leave QFC property, the officers "each just took one of his arms, he stood up and
he walked off the property to this corner with us." Tran Decl., Ex. C (Runolfson Dep. at 20).

1 (Dominguez Dep. at 63-64, 168-69), Ex. B (Ocker Dep. at 29); Ex. C (Runolfson Dep. at
2 20, 25-26). Officer Runolfson told Mr. Dominguez that he would be arrested for
3 trespass. Id., Ex. C (Runolfson Dep. at 25). Mr. Dominguez knew that if he moved from
4 the public sidewalk back onto QFC property, he would be arrested. Id., Ex. A
5 (Dominguez Dep. at 166). However, he wanted to see what the officers would do and
6 believed the officers were acting wrongfully. Id., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 166). When
7 Mr. Dominguez stepped back toward QFC, the officers arrested him. Id., Ex. C
8 (Runolfson Dep. at 26).

9
10 Mr. Dominguez claims that he did not actually step onto QFC property, id., Ex. A
11 (Dominguez Dep. at 166); he admits that his intention as he stepped towards QFC was to
12 find a manager, and to test the officers to see what they would do if he disobeyed their
13 order. Id. Mr. Dominguez was warned that he would be arrested if he went back toward
14 QFC, and admits that he disobeyed the officer's instruction:

15 A: . . . I was in the sidewalk at this point, and he say, you take a step towards
16 the entrance [of QFC] and I will arrest you.

17 Q: Did you say anything in response?

18 A: No. I looked at him and I took a step towards there.

19 Q: Why did you take a step towards the entrance?

20 A: Because I wanted to talk to the manager myself.

21 Q: At that point you knew what the officer's instruction was, right?

22 A: Yes.

23 Id., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 63-64). Officer Runolfson claims Mr. Dominguez was
24 arrested without incident and transferred to the King County Jail.² Id., Ex. C (Runolfson
25 Dep. at 26). Mr. Dominguez claims he was pushed against the police car, but does not
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27
28 ² Mr. Dominguez has not filed suit against King County for his treatment while
being held in the King County Jail.

1 allege resulting physical injuries. See Howell Decl., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 66). Mr.
2 Mr. Dominguez's homeless friend, Scott "Tree" Rogholt, does not mention the pushing or
3 rough treatment of Mr. Dominguez. His declaration states that "[a] Seattle police officer
4 arrived and Mr. Dominguez was handcuffed and driven away in the police car." See
5 Rogholt Decl. ¶ 6.

6 In the holding cell, a corrections officer asked a group of inmates (including Mr.
7 Dominguez) whether anyone was suicidal. Mr. Dominguez responded, "Who wouldn't
8 be suicidal being here." Tran Decl., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 86-87). Mr. Dominguez
9 was then placed in solitary confinement. Id. Mr. Dominguez alleges the jail cells were
10 disgusting, with blood and spit on the floor. Id. Although Mr. Dominguez was placed on
11 a list of inmates scheduled to speak with a mental health provider, he was discharged
12 from the King County Jail before the meeting. Id., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 99). Mr.
13 Dominguez did meet with one mental health provider before he left. When asked why he
14 was in jail, Mr. Dominguez stated: "I tried to play a joke on the system, and the system
15 played a joke on me." Id.

17 III. ANALYSIS

18 In examining these motions for summary judgment, the court must draw all
19 inferences from the admissible evidence in the light most favorable to the non-moving
20 party. Addisu v. Fred Meyer, Inc., 198 F.3d 1130, 1134 (9th Cir. 2000). Summary
21 judgment is proper where there is no genuine issue of material fact and the moving party
22 is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(c). The moving party bears
23 the initial burden to demonstrate the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. Celotex
24 Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 323 (1986). Once the moving party has met its burden,
25 the opposing party must show that there is a genuine issue of fact. Matsushita Elec.
26 Indus. Co. v. Zenith Radio Corp., 475 U.S. 574, 586-87 (1986). The opposing party must
27 present significant and probative evidence to support its claim or defense. Intel Corp. v.
28

1 Hartford Accident & Indem. Co., 952 F.2d 1551, 1558 (9th Cir. 1991). For purely legal
2 questions, summary judgment is appropriate without deference to the non-moving party.

3 **A. Mr. Dominguez's Claims Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.**

4 Mr. Dominguez alleges that his Constitutional rights were violated when he was
5 arrested without probable cause. The Seattle and QFC Defendants have moved for
6 summary judgment on Mr. Dominguez's 42 U.S.C. § 1983 ("§ 1983") claims.

7 Defendants argue that the arrest of Mr. Dominguez was proper, and that Mr.
8 Dominguez's Constitutional rights were not violated because the officers had probable
9 cause to arrest him. For the reasons stated below, the court concludes that Mr.
10 Dominguez's § 1983 claims should be dismissed.

11 **1. Officer Runolfson Had Probable Cause to Arrest Mr. Dominguez.**

12 A predicate to a § 1983 action for unlawful arrest is the absence of probable cause.
13 See Pierson v. Ray, 386 U.S. 547, 555 (1967) ("A peace officer who arrests someone
14 with probable cause is not liable for false arrest simply because the innocence of the
15 suspect is later proved."). Probable cause exists when the facts and circumstances within
16 the officer's knowledge are sufficient to cause a person of reasonable caution to believe
17 that a crime has been committed. Ybarra v. Illinois, 444 U.S. 85, 91 (1979). The validity
18 of the arrest is determined by the objective facts and circumstances known to the officer
19 at the time of the arrest. Beck v. Ohio, 379 U.S. 89, 96 (1964); State v. Huff, 826 P.2d
20 698, 701 (Wash. Ct. App. 1992). "It is immaterial whether or not the [arrestee] was
21 actually violating the law at the time of the arrest if in fact his conduct was such as to
22 lead a reasonable prudent officer to believe in good faith he was violating the law."
23 Sennett v. Zimmerman, 314 P.2d 414, 416 (Wash. 1937). The police must only show
24 that, "under the totality of the circumstances," "a prudent person would have concluded
25 that there was a fair probability that [the suspect] had committed a crime." United States
26 v. Valencia-Amezcua, 278 F.3d 901, 906 (9th Cir. 2002)
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28

1 The Seattle Defendants contend there was probable cause to believe that Mr.
2 Dominguez was trespassing on QFC property because the facts known to the officers
3 were sufficient to reasonably conclude that Plaintiff was trespassing. Officer Ocker
4 issued Mr. Dominguez a trespass admonishment, and Mr. Dominguez had begun to
5 proceed back to QFC. Mr. Dominguez urges that there was no probable cause for his
6 arrest because he merely “took a step towards” QFC. He urges that his arrest was
7 unlawful because although he made a move toward QFC, he had not actually arrived on
8 QFC property. See Pl.’s Opp. at 8.

9
10 In considering these motions for summary judgment, the court must take all
11 inferences from the facts in favor of Mr. Dominguez. Although both officers have
12 testified that Mr. Dominguez took several steps onto QFC property, for purposes of this
13 motion the court must accept Mr. Dominguez’s version of the facts: he took a step
14 towards QFC (remaining on the sidewalk) to test the officers, to see if they really would
15 arrest him, and to re-enter the QFC premises to find a manager. See Tran Decl., Ex. A
16 (Dominguez Dep. at 63-64). Mr. Dominguez admits his intent to disobey the officer’s
17 orders and return to QFC. Mr. Dominguez argues that the officers did not have probable
18 cause to arrest him because he was standing on the sidewalk outside QFC. He contends
19 that even though he was stepping toward QFC, intending to re-enter, he had not yet
20 committed the trespass. Mr. Dominguez concludes that there was no probable cause to
21 arrest him. However, Mr. Dominguez admits his intent was to challenge the order to
22 leave QFC, and to test whether he would be arrested. He admits that he was told in
23 advance that he would be arrested if he took another step toward QFC. Id., Ex. A
24 (Dominguez Dep. at 63-64).

25 The federal courts have not required police to carry surveying equipment and
26 assessor’s maps when making a probable cause determination for criminal trespass.
27 Bodzin v. Dallas, 768 F.2d 722, 725 (5th Cir. 1985) (“[W]e cannot expect our police
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1 officers to carry surveying equipment and a Decennial Digest on patrol; they cannot be
2 held to a title-searcher's knowledge of metes and bounds or a legal scholar's expertise in
3 constitutional law.") (quoting Saldana v. Garza, 684 F.2d 1159, 1165 (5th Cir. 1982)).
4 The relevant inquiry is whether the arresting officers had a reasonable belief that the
5 arrestee had violated trespass laws. See Dowling v. City of Philadelphia, 855 F.2d 136,
6 142 n. 6 (3rd Cir. 1988).

7 Mr. Dominguez contends that because he was standing on the sidewalk the
8 officers did not have probable cause. The court concludes otherwise. These officers had
9 previously physically removed Mr. Dominguez from QFC property after he refused their
10 orders to leave. They had probable cause to arrest him for trespass when they first
11 removed him. The fact that the officers were willing to allow Mr. Dominguez to leave
12 without being arrested does not mean they did not have probable cause for arrest. Mr.
13 Dominguez would not have been arrested if he had left the premises; however, when he
14 decided to test the officers, Officer Runolfson already had probable cause to arrest him
15 for trespass.³ Accordingly, Mr. Dominguez's claim under § 1983 should be dismissed.

17 Because the court determines that Officer Runolfson and Officer Ocker had
18 probable cause to believe Mr. Dominguez committed criminal trespass, the court need not
19 reach the issue of qualified immunity and Mr. Dominguez's § 1983 claims must be
20 dismissed.⁴

22 ³ The fact that Mr. Dominguez's initial refusal to leave was not the officers' proffered
23 basis for the arrest is immaterial. An officer need not have in mind the specific charge on which
24 the arrest can be justified. United States v. Patzer, 284 F.3d 1043, 1046 (9th Cir. 2002);
25 Devenpeck v. Alford, 543 U.S. 146 (2004). Officers Ocker and Runolfson had probable cause to
arrest Mr. Dominguez for criminal trespass when he refused to leave QFC property.

26 ⁴ If the court were to reach the question of qualified immunity it would conclude that
27 Officers Ocker and Runolfson had qualified immunity. The arrest of Mr. Dominguez for trespass
28 followed an extended interaction between the officers and Mr. Dominguez during which he
refused to leave QFC property, which culminated in his physical ejection from the property. Even
if the court concluded that the officers did not have probable cause to arrest Mr. Dominguez, a

1 **2. The City of Seattle is Not Liable Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.**

2 To prevail against a municipality under § 1983, the plaintiff must identify a
3 municipal policy or custom which itself caused the plaintiff's injury. See, e.g., Bryan
4 County Commissioners v. Brown, 520 U.S. 397 (1997). The City of Seattle argues that
5 Mr. Dominguez has failed to articulate the policy or practice which forms the basis for
6 his claims against the City. A municipality cannot be held liable under § 1983 merely
7 because a plaintiff has suffered a deprivation of rights at the hands of a municipal
8 employee. Mr. Dominguez does not respond to this argument and the court finds no facts
9 to support a § 1983 claim against the City. Mr. Dominguez's claim against the City of
10 Seattle pursuant to § 1983 should be dismissed.

11 **3. The QFC Defendants are Not Liable Under 42 U.S.C. § 1983.**

12 In order to maintain a cause of action under § 1983, Mr. Dominguez must show
13 the deprivation of a right secured by the Constitution and the laws of the United States by
14 a state actor. Lugar v. Edmondson Oil Co., 457 U.S. 922, 929-30 (1982). When
15 asserting a cause of action under § 1983 against a private party, the plaintiff must show
16 that the private party acted in concert with a state actor.⁵ In this case, Mr. Dominguez
17 fails to demonstrate that his Constitutional rights were violated and the court need not
18 consider whether QFC acted in concert with a state actor.

19 Mr. Dominguez fails to show that QFC played any part in the arrest of Mr.
20 Dominguez. QFC did not employ Officer Runolfson, who actually arrested Mr.
21 Dominguez.

22 _____
23 reasonable officer would have believed it was lawful to arrest Mr. Dominguez for trespass in light
24 of the facts and circumstances known to Officers Ocker and Runolfson at the time they arrested
25 Mr. Dominguez.

26 ⁵ Such a showing is frequently made where the officer and the private party were jointly
27 engaged with state officials in the prohibited action, acting under "color of law" for purposes of
28 § 1983. See Adickes v. S. H. Kress & Co., 398 U.S. 144, 153 (1970) (plaintiff entitled to relief
 under § 1983 against private party if she can prove that private party and police officer "reached
 an understanding" to cause her arrest on impermissible grounds).

1 Dominguez. QFC played no role in having Mr. Dominguez arrested, apart from hiring
 2 store security who called for backup. See, e.g., Prowisor v. Bon Ton, Inc., 426 F. Supp.
 3 2d 165, 170 (S.D.N.Y. 2006) (Police reliance on information provided by store security
 4 guards does not convert store into state actor). QFC's actions did not cause the arrest.⁶
 5 Mr. Dominguez's § 1983 claims against the QFC Defendants should be dismissed.

6 **B. Outrage and Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress.**

7 The Seattle Defendants and QFC Defendants move for summary judgment on Mr.
 8 Dominguez's state law claims for outrage⁷ and negligent infliction of emotional distress.
 9 Mr. Dominguez alleges that the circumstances of his arrest and the conditions of his
 10 detention support his claim for outrage.⁸ The basic elements of the tort of outrage are
 11 (1) extreme and outrageous conduct; (2) intentional or reckless infliction of emotional
 12 distress; and (3) actual result to the plaintiff of severe emotional distress. Rice v.
 13 Janovich, 742 P.2d 1230, 1238 (Wash. 1987). The conduct in question must be "so
 14 outrageous in character, and so extreme in degree, as to go beyond all possible bounds of
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 19 ⁶ Mr. Dominguez also fails to produce evidence that he was arrested pursuant to some
 20 unconstitutional QFC policy. See Otani v. City & County of Hawaii, 126 F. Supp. 2d 1299 (D.
 21 Haw. 1998).

22 ⁷ The tort of outrage is also known as "intentional infliction of emotional distress." See
 23 Rice, 742 P.2d at 1238.

24 ⁸ The Seattle Defendants argue that the court should dismiss Mr. Dominguez's claim for
 25 outrage because his emotional distress damages are recoverable as part of his § 1983 claim, citing
 26 Rice v. Janovich, 742 P.2d 1230, 1238 (Wash. 1987). Rice held that it was error to instruct the
 27 jury on both outrage and assault because the instruction allowed for the possibility of double
 28 recovery. However, Rice dealt with two state law claims and the possibility of double recovery
 under state law. Mr. Dominguez asserts independent state and federal law claims. The parties
 have cited no precedent holding that recovery under a state law tort theory is barred by the
 possibility of recovery under § 1983. Accordingly, the court declines to dismiss Mr. Dominguez's
 state law claims as "superfluous," as the Seattle Defendants request.

1 decency, and to be regarded as atrocious, and utterly intolerable in a civilized
2 community.” Grimsby v. Samson, 530 P.2d 291, 295 (Wash. 1975).⁹

3 **1. Mr. Dominguez Does Not State a Claim for Intentional Infliction of**
4 **Emotional Distress Because the Conduct Was Not Extreme or**
5 **Outrageous.**

6 Mr. Dominguez asserts a claim for intentional infliction of emotional distress
7 based on his arrest and detention. Mr. Dominguez alleges that he was unlawfully arrested
8 by Officers Runolfson and Ocker, that he was roughly treated, that the conditions of his
9 detention were deplorable, and that these acts constitute “extreme and outrageous”
10 conduct sufficient to support his outrage claim.

11 It is first for the court to determine if reasonable minds could differ on whether the
12 conduct was sufficiently extreme to result in liability. Dicomes v. State, 782 P.2d 1002,
13 1012-13 (Wash. 1989). Liability for the tort of outrage “does not extend to mere insults,
14 indignities, threats, annoyances, petty oppressions, or other trivialities.” Grimsby, 530
15 P.2d at 295. In this area a plaintiff must necessarily be hardened to a certain degree of
16 rough language, unkindness and lack of consideration.

17 The conduct alleged in this case was not sufficiently extreme to result in liability.
18 Mr. Dominguez claims that his outrage claim is viable because Officer Ocker “got really
19 violent” and “slammed me against the police cruiser, he grabbed me again” during his
20 arrest. Id., Ex. A (Dominguez Dep. at 66). However, beyond this characterization, Mr.
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22 ⁹ The Seattle Defendants argue that Mr. Dominguez’s claim for outrage must fail because
23 “he cannot demonstrate any objective symptoms of emotional distress susceptible to medical
24 diagnosis and proved through medical evidence,” citing Haubry v. Snow, 31 P.3d 1186, 1194
25 (Wash. Ct. App. 2001). That case held that, with regard to her claim for the tort of outrage,
26 Plaintiff Connie Haubry’s “emotional distress must be susceptible to medical diagnosis and proved
27 through medical evidence” in order for her claim to be viable. However, the Seattle Defendants
28 overlook Kloepfel v. Bokor, 66 P.3d 630 (Wash. 2003), which disapproved of the reasoning in
Haubry, and set forth in clear terms the status of objective symptomatology as it relates to claims
for the tort of outrage: “We have never applied the objective symptomatology requirement to
intentional infliction of emotional distress. * * * Quite simply, objective symptomatology is not
required to establish intentional infliction of emotional distress.” Id. at 633-34.

1 Dominguez does not allege any injuries. Although he describes his body touching the
2 car, he presents no evidence that the contact caused injury or pain. Mr. Dominguez's
3 description of the events and search do not demonstrate conduct sufficiently extreme to
4 result in liability. Being pushed towards a police car during the course of a lawful arrest
5 (without injury) is not extreme or outrageous. Although Mr. Dominguez describes a
6 search and handcuffs, he doesn't allege that the handcuffs were too tight, that he suffered
7 physical injury, or that his arrest was anything more than routine. His own eye-witness
8 describes no extraordinary facts or circumstances surrounding the arrest. The allegations
9 in this case are insufficient as a matter of law to support a claim of outrage.

10
11 Mr. Dominguez also contends that placing him in an unsanitary and disgusting jail
12 cell was extreme and outrageous conduct.¹⁰ Undoubtedly, being placed in a jail cell was
13 unpleasant. It is likely that being placed in solitary confinement on suicide watch was
14 even more unpleasant. Setting aside whether any Defendant was responsible for
15 conditions at the jail, Mr. Dominguez has not identified any conduct that was extreme,
16 outrageous, or unlawful. When asked if anyone was suicidal, he made a quip about being
17 suicidal. Placing him on suicide watch was not an unreasonable action under those
18 circumstances. Indeed, not placing Mr. Dominguez on suicide watch after he responded
19 to the inquiry regarding suicide might have been an unreasonable action.

20 The conduct described by Mr. Dominguez was not "extreme" or "beyond all
21 bounds of decency." See Seaman v. Karr, 59 P.3d 701 (Wash. Ct. App. 2002) (Outrage
22 claim stated where Tacoma S.W.A.T. members (1) mistakenly invaded wrong house with
23 machine guns and flash-bang grenades, setting the carpet on fire; (2) knocked an elderly
24 resident to the ground; (3) threatened to kill the elderly resident if he moved; (4) painfully
25 handcuffed innocent residents for hours; (5) refused to identify themselves; and (6)

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28 ¹⁰ There is no evidence that any Defendant was responsible for conditions in the King
County facility where Mr. Dominguez spent the night. King County is not a party to this lawsuit.

1 refused to admit their mistake); see also Kloepfel v. Bokor, 66 P.3d 630 (Wash. 2003)
 2 (Outrage claim stated where police officer harassed female ex-roommate for over three
 3 years, called her house and work over 700 times, and threatened to kill her on numerous
 4 occasions).

5 The allegations by Mr. Dominguez fall below the extreme and outrageous conduct
 6 implicated in the tort of outrage. Having failed to establish the first element of the tort of
 7 outrage, the court need not consider the other two elements. Because Mr. Dominguez has
 8 failed to establish sufficiently extreme or outrageous conduct, his claims for outrage
 9 should be dismissed against all parties.

10 **2. Mr. Dominguez Does Not State a Claim for Negligent Infliction of**
 11 **Emotional Distress Because He Does Not Demonstrate Objective**
 12 **Symptoms of Emotional Distress Proved Through Medical Evidence.**

13 Mr. Dominguez also asserts a claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress
 14 based on his arrest and detention. A plaintiff may recover for negligent infliction of
 15 emotional distress by proving “negligence, i.e., duty, breach, proximate cause, and
 16 damage, and . . . the additional requirement of objective symptomatology.” Hunsley v.
 17 Giard, 553 P.2d 1096, 1102-03 (Wash. 1976). The plaintiff must also prove emotional
 18 distress by “objective symptomatology.” The “emotional distress must be susceptible to
 19 medical diagnosis and proved through medical evidence.” Hegel v. McMahon, 960 P.2d
 20 424 (Wash. 1998). The symptoms of emotional distress must “constitute a diagnosable
 21 emotional disorder.” Id.

22 The Seattle and QFC Defendants have moved to dismiss Mr. Dominguez’s claim
 23 for negligent infliction of emotional distress for lack of objective medical evidence. Mr.
 24 Dominguez does not respond to this argument. Mr. Dominguez failed to provide medical
 25 evidence of objective symptomatology, and his subjective statements of emotional
 26 distress are insufficient to defeat summary judgment. See Dwyer v. TW Services, 973 F.
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 28

1 Supp. 981, 987 (W.D. Wash. 1997). The court concludes that his claim for negligent
2 infliction of emotional distress should be dismissed for this reason, as well.

3 The Seattle Defendants argue that Mr. Dominguez's claim for negligent infliction
4 of emotional distress should also be dismissed for another reason: the acts on which the
5 claim is based are intentional. See, e.g., St. Michelle v. Robinson, 759 P.2d 467 (Wash.
6 Ct. App. 1988) (intentional acts of sexual abuse did not give rise to cause of action for
7 negligent infliction of emotional distress). Mr. Dominguez does not argue that St.
8 Michelle is inapplicable here, and the court agrees with the Seattle Defendants that this
9 second reason compels dismissal.

10 The QFC Defendants urge another alternative ground for dismissal: QFC did not
11 owe Mr. Dominguez a duty of care once it had trespassed him from QFC property. Mr.
12 Dominguez argues that he was owed a duty of care as a business invitee on the premises.
13 However, when Officer Ocker trespassed him, Mr. Dominguez was no longer a business
14 invitee. A business owner owes no duty of care to a trespasser except to refrain from
15 willfully or wantonly injuring the trespasser. Zuniga v. Pay Less Drug Stores, 917 P.2d
16 584 (Wash. Ct. App. 1996). QFC did not violate any duty of care owed to Mr.
17 Dominguez and his claim for negligent infliction of emotional distress should be
18 dismissed.
19

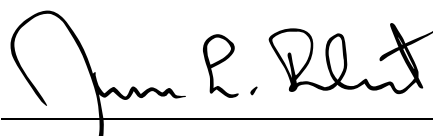
20 IV. CONCLUSION

21 The court GRANTS the motion for summary judgment by the Seattle Defendants
22 (Dkt. # 31) because the officers had probable cause to arrest Mr. Dominguez for trespass
23 and because Mr. Dominguez fails to state a claim for outrage or negligent infliction of
24 emotional distress. The court also grants summary judgment on behalf of the unidentified
25 Seattle Police Officers. The court GRANTS the motion for summary judgment by the
26 QFC defendants (Dkt. # 34) because the officers had probable cause to arrest Mr.
27 Dominguez, because Mr. Dominguez otherwise fails to state a claim under § 1983, and
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1 because Mr. Dominguez fails to state a claim for outrage or negligent infliction of
2 emotional distress.

3 IT IS SO ORDERED.

4 Dated this 30th day of August, 2006.

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8 JAMES L. ROBART

9 United States District Judge